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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 10, 19 and 22 and add new claims 23-24 as follows:

10. (currently amended) An aerobic treatment system comprising  
a) a biodegradable material to be aerobically treated; and  
b) a cover oriented adjacent said [for the aerobic treatment of]  
biodegradable material, which cover comprises a laminate of  
a) a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous  
polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10µm  
and having on one side an oleophobic coating oriented to face said  
biodegradable material, said layer adhered on its opposite side to  
b) at least one woven, non-woven or knit water-repellent fabric outer  
layer, in which the laminate has  
  - i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference,
  - ii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,
  - iii) an Ret less than 15 m<sup>2</sup>Pa/W. [;and in which the porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of  
an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during  
aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.]
11. (previously presented) The cover of claim 10 wherein the laminate has a tensile strength greater than 1000 N/5 cm.
12. (original) The cover of claim [11] 10 wherein the fabric comprises a polyester, polyacrylate, polypropylene or a fluoropolymer.
15. (original) The cover of claim 10 wherein the air permeability is between 15 and 50 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>/hour at 200 Pa pressure difference; the water entry pressure is greater than 50 kPa; the Ret is between 2 and 10 m<sup>2</sup>/Pa/W; and the average pore size of the porous polymeric layer is between 0.3 and 3 micrometers.
16. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing towards the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 1.

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17. (original) The cover of claim 10 or 15 wherein the surface of the laminate facing toward the biodegradable material has an oil rating of at least 5.

19. (currently amended) An aerobic treatment system, comprising

1) a biodegradable material; and

(2) a cover oriented adjacent [for the aerobic treatment of] said biodegradable material, said cover consisting essentially of a laminate of (a) an expanded PTFE membrane inner layer exhibiting a node and fibril structure and having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  oriented to face said biodegradable material, and (b) at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer selected from the group consisting of a woven, knit and nonwoven construction, said laminate having

(i) an air permeability of between 10 and 100  $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$  at 200 Pa pressure difference, and

(ii) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa, an Ret less than 15  $\text{m}^2\text{Pa/W}$ ,

wherein [and in which] the porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) An aerobic treatment system [for the aerobic treatment of biodegradable material] comprising

a) a biodegradable material to be aerobically treated; and

b) a cover [for covering] oriented adjacent the biodegradable material, said cover comprising a laminate comprising [of] (1) a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  adhered to (2) at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer, the laminate having

iv) an air permeability of between 10 and 100  $\text{m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$  at 200 Pa pressure difference,

v) a water entry pressure greater than 20 kPa,

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vi) an  $R_{et}$  less than  $15 \text{ m}^2\text{Pa/W}$ ; and  
 an air flow means which provides at least some flow of air through the biodegradable material, and in which the porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover during aerobic treatment of said biodegradable material.

23. (New) A method for aerobically treating a biodegradable material comprising:

- 1) providing a biodegradable material;
- 2) orienting adjacent said biodegradable material a cover comprising a laminate comprising (1) a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between  $0.2$  and  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  adhered to (2) at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer, the laminate having
  - i) an air permeability of between  $10$  and  $100 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$  at  $200 \text{ Pa}$  pressure difference,
  - ii) a water entry pressure greater than  $20 \text{ kPa}$ , and
  - iii) an  $R_{et}$  less than  $15 \text{ m}^2\text{Pa/W}$ ; and
- 3) inducing air flow into said biodegradable material, whereby gas passes through said cover.

24. (New) A method for aerobically treating a biodegradable material comprising:

- 1) providing a biodegradable material;
- 2) orienting adjacent said biodegradable material a cover comprising a laminate comprising (1) a porous polymeric inner layer comprising porous polytetrafluoroethylene having an average pore size of between  $0.2$  and  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$  adhered to (2) at least one water-repellent fabric outer layer, the laminate having
  - i) an air permeability of between  $10$  and  $100 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{hour}$  at  $200 \text{ Pa}$  pressure difference,
  - ii) a water entry pressure greater than  $20 \text{ kPa}$ , and
  - iii) an  $R_{et}$  less than  $15 \text{ m}^2\text{Pa/W}$ ; and
- 3) inducing air flow into said biodegradable material, whereby the porous polymeric inner layer minimizes the formation of an obstruction layer of liquid forming on or within said cover and gas passes through said cover.